

Serial No.: 10/541,744
Examiner: W. Choi
Title: SMALL ZOOM LENS, AND DIGITAL CAMERA AND VIDEO CAMERA BOTH HAVING SAME
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REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above editorial revisions and the following remarks. Claim 15 has been added. Support for claim 15 is found in Figure 21 and on page 26, line 20 to page 27, line 17 of the specification. Claims 1-2 and 5-15 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections -35 USC §112

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection asserts Applicant discloses "wherein a single lens is disposed closest to the object side in the fourth lens group", but the Figures and tables in the specification disclose "wherein a doublet or cemented lens is arranged closest to the object side in the fourth lens group."

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The fourth lens group G4 disclosed in "Embodiment 2" of the specification (particularly page 17, lines 8-16 of the PCT specification, corresponding to page 19, line 25 to page 20, line 7 of the English translation) and Figure 11 disclose a single lens 41 disposed closest to the object side. Claim 11 therefore particularly recites and distinctly claims the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1, 2, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Horiuchi (US 6,344,932 B1). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 1 was amended under PCT article 19 in the PCT international phase to include the limitations of claims 3 and 4 as well as a partial limitation from claim 9 as shown on page 2 of this response. The rejection appears to be based upon the claims before the amendment. Claim 1 is therefore allowable since it already includes the limitations of claims 3 and 4 which are deemed to be allowable. Claims 2, 13 and 14 are also allowable since they depend from claim 1 that is allowable. Claim 15 is allowable since it also depends from claim 1 that is allowable.

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Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's primary attorney-of-record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 455-3804.

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Respectfully submitted,

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